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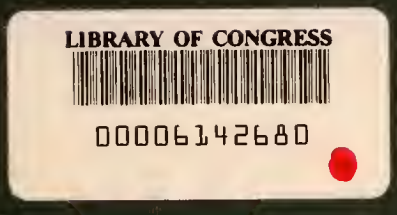

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National Lincoln Monument.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

OFFICE NATIONAL LINCOLN MONUMENT ASSOCIATION,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 24, 1868.

The National Lincoln Monument Association deem it proper at this time, to make the following public statement:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was murdered on the 14th day of April, 1865. The sentiment of deep and universal grief caused by that event, sought expression in various ways; and, among others, in the idea of a Memorial Structure that should forever mark the place of his sepulchre, and fitly express the nation's sense of his illustrious character and public services. To this spontaneous movement of the public mind at that time, this Association owes its origin. After several preliminary meetings, it was formally organized under the provisions of law, on the 11th day of May, 1865, twenty-seven days after the assassination, and immediately entered upon the important work committed to its charge. Its numerous appeals for aid were promptly responded to, and contributions from all parts of the country, especially from soldiers and Sabbath school children, flowed steadily into its treasury; and the Association anticipated the early realization of a sum sufficient to warrant the commencement of the work. But, with the lapse of time, the swift procession of great events in the national history, and the inevitable recoil of the public mind from the profound depression caused by the first terrible shock—public interest in the enterprise lost its original intensity, the receipts gradually fell off, and the bright promise of the first few days was not fulfilled. It had been the earnest desire of the Association to commence the Monument as early as the spring of 1866, but, under the influences above stated, the close of that year found them with but $75,000 in their treasury, and it was the unanimous opinion that such a work as they desired, and would be expected to build, should not be commenced with so small an amount of funds on hand.

The contributions up to that time had all been made by the voluntary action of pri[illegible]es, soldiers and others, in response to the various calls and circulars of the Association. There had [illegible] General Assembly of Illinois since the organization of the Association, and, of course, no appropriation [illegible] had been made by the State. Hence, other States, which had been cordially invited to partici[illegible] while expressing through their chief executives, and otherwise, their warm sympathy and approval, reasonably enough intimated that Illinois herself should first act, after which we were encouraged to believe that they also would do something.

The Association were quite ready to accept this conditional promise of aid from sister States, because it was in itself reasonable, and because the prompt action of the Legislature of our own State, as soon as it should convene, was not for a moment doubted.

Accordingly, upon the meeting of the General Assembly of this State, in January, 1867, the Association presented a memorial asking for an appropriation from the State Treasury to aid in building the Monument; and, to the honor of Illinois be it said, so heartily was the appeal appreciated and responded to by the representatives of the people of the State which had so honored and trusted ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and which he, in turn, had so honored and trusted, that the very *second bill* passed by that body last winter, appropriated $50,000 to the funds of the Association.

Illinois having thus led the way in making a most generous appropriation towards this tribute of respect to the memory of the late President, and thereby satisfied the reasonable expectations and conditions suggested by other States, the Association anticipate the early and favorable action of the Legislatures of several other States, especially of those from which cordial assurances of interest and sympathy have been received, and are not without hope of the co-operation of so large a proportion of the States of the whole Union, as to render the structure that shall be built, in the strictest sense, a *National* Monument—erected by glad offerings from every State and Territory of the Republic; for LINCOLN was surely the gift of God, not to Illinois alone, but to the Nation and to the age.

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It is proper also to refer again to the fact that all questions respecting the location of the Monument were long since determined and settled in the most satisfactory manner. We have obtained from the city of Springfield a perfect title to about six acres of most beautiful grounds, in Oakridge Cemetery, near the city of Springfield, which have been surveyed and platted by an eminent rural engineer detailed by the Government for the purpose, and who pronounces them susceptible of being made equal in beauty and attractiveness to any similar grounds in the United States. On this spot the dust of LINCOLN now reposes, in a substantial temporary vault erected for that purpose, within a few yards of which, the great Monument is to stand. Oakridge is already connected with the city by a horse railroad, affording ready access at all seasons of the year, and leaving nothing to be desired in the conveniences and surroundings of the spot chosen.

Under these circumstances, being mindful that nearly three years have elapsed since LINCOLN fell, and acknowledging and deeply feeling their responsibility to the donors of the funds in hand, and to the people of this State and of the whole country, for the faithful execution of the sacred trusts committed to them, the Association conceive that the time for decisive action has come, and that they must go forward with the enterprise in hand.

Accordingly, at a meeting held on the 2nd instant, it was unanimously

"*Resolved*, That the Association take immediate steps to procure a suitable Design for a National Monument to ABRAHAM LINCOLN, to cost a sum not exceeding $200,000."

At a subsequent meeting held on the 9th instant, it was ordered that an advertisement be published in certain designated leading newspapers throughout the United States, inviting the friendly competition of eminent American artists, and offering a liberal premium for the Design that shall finally be adopted.

The proposals and designs are to be submitted on or before the 14th day of April, 1868, being the third anniversary of LINCOLN's death; and the work of construction is to be commenced as soon thereafter as practicable, so that good progress can be made during the present year.

The present available funds of the Association amount to $134,000; consisting of $84,000 of cash contributions, invested in interest bearing Government and State bonds, and on special deposit with Jacob Bunn, Esq., of this city; and $50,000 appropriated by the Legislature. The latter amount, under the provisions of the act making the appropriation, cannot be used until the money now in the hands of the Association is expended in the erection of the Monument, and no interest is therefore accruing upon that sum.

It will thus be seen that about $66,000 more will be required to enable the Association to build the contemplated Monument; and it is for the purpose of re-enlisting the interest and efforts of those who have already aided and encouraged the Association, and of securing the active sympathy and co-operation of others, that this address is now issued. We have briefly referred to the origin of the corporation, the circumstances of its formation, its worthy and patriotic objects, the sacred trusts committed to it, its operations and results thus far, the cause of delay in beginning the work, the resources now at command, and its purpose soon to enter with energy upon the construction of the Monument—the specific work for which it was created.

Before the corner stone is laid we ought to have, and we hope to have, the whole $200,000 in our treasury, so that the work may be pushed rapidly forward, without intermission, from its inception to its completion.

To secure the deficit of $66,000, this appeal is made. It will be the last general call upon the people of the State and nation that we propose ever to make. We want $200,000 for this Monument. We believe that no less a sum will enable us to erect such a structure over the mouldering body of ABRAHAM LINCOLN as will comport with the lustre of his virtues and renown; the immortal acts to which he placed his hand; or with the genius, civilization and dignity of the country, the age and the epoch in which he lived.

But while it is our firm conviction, and we are not yet ready to believe that it is not also the feeling of the American people, that the sum named is not too large, we nevertheless deem it proper to announce that if the $200,000 cannot be raised during the next few months, we will adopt a plan that can be executed for a less sum, and do the best we can with the means then at our disposal. For of two things we beg to assure the public, and especially those who sincerely wish to honor the name of LINCOLN: First, that a Monument shall be speedily begun; and second, that when begun, it shall be speedily carried forward to completion. We are unanimously determined to adopt no Design which we cannot clearly see our way to execute and finish; we do not intend to commence a structure beyond our means, only to leave its inchoate walls to crumble in the storms of waiting years. The lessons of derision and reproach taught by the miserable monumental failures, at the Federal Capital and elsewhere, shall not be lost upon us. We say this in no spirit of boasting, or of superior wisdom, but only that the friends of our undertaking may clearly understand our intentions in this respect. The plan chosen shall correspond with our actual resources, and as soon after the laying of the *corner stone* as is compatible with the time required for the mechanical execution of such a work, we expect to invite you to witness and rejoice over the placing of the *top-stone*.

It only remains, then, for us to renew our appeal for aid in behalf of this great and patriotic enterprise; and we do most earnestly call upon all in this State, and in other States, who love and venerate the name and character of LINCOLN, and who approve of the proposed mode of expressing that veneration and love, to send in their contributions, without delay, to the Hon. Jas. H. Beveridge, Springfield, Illinois, the Treasurer of the Association, so that by the 14th of April next, the whole $200,000 may be in hand. It can easily be done if every one whose heart is in sympathy with the object, will do what he can. To all such persons we would say: Do not wait for others, but act at once—do not wait till you can make a large donation, but forward what you can *now* give, however small the sum may be—the smallest donation, if freely given, is as worthy of record as the largest—the very ocean is filled with *drops* of water. The largest portion of the funds already received has come in the form of *many small* contributions.

We ask the LADIES to help us in this good work. Let but the tithe of the tact and energy and varied resources displayed by them during the war, in behalf of the soldiers of the Republic, be put forth in behalf of this memorial to the chieftain who guided

the country safely through the fires of battle and revolution, and the few thousands, for which we wait, would soon be at our disposal. We therefore invoke their aid. We ask them to form auxiliary societies, or to adopt any other means that their fertile minds and loving hearts may suggest, to secure donations for this object, and that they forward to our Treasurer the funds that may be so raised.

To the SABBATH SCHOOLS in the United States we again appeal. To our former invitations, the great army of Sabbath School children nobly responded, and the tens of thousands of little mites contributed by them, became, when united, a golden stream pouring into our Treasury, more copious in the aggregate, than that flowing from any other one source. When the Monument is built, more of its goodly stones will be the gift of little children, than of any other one class of our whole population. Once more we ask you all to remember your dear, dead friend, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and help us to make beautiful and memorable the place of his sleeping dust.

The children of the PUBLIC SCHOOLS, too, have already done well. Those of far distant California, by giving only a dime apiece, have sent us thousands of dollars. Shall not the school children of Illinois and other States do as well? Teachers and pupils of the public schools, we again commend the cause to your loving regard. Let every School District and School in the State and Nation be represented in the Monument.

The SOLDIERS and SAILORS of the Union will not forget their great leader, who fell with his armor on, just as the day of peace and victory was breaking. Thousands of your number have already borne a generous part in this tribute to the illustrious dead, and there are tens of thousands more who, we believe, will be glad to do so. You bore the burdens which made LINCOLN immortal. You fought his battles and bore high the colors of the Republic. Will you not also bring garlands to his grave, and offerings to his memory?

To the COLORED POPULATION of the country we would say: We propose to do honor to your greatest earthly benefactor; whoever may cease to care for ABRAHAM LINCOLN, we are persuaded that his name will ever be green in *your* hearts. We acknowledge the receipt of very liberal donotions from you already. May we not expect still greater? We are not sure but that if the subject of this Monument were properly presented to your people throughout the nation, that they would not insist upon taking the whole contract into their hands. Let us hear from you again, and often, till the deficit is made up.

But we must not prolong this address. To all the various Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce; to the various Lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, and Good Templars throughout the country; to all Literary, Religious, and Benevolent Associations in the land; to the Churches of all denominations, everywhere; to every Individual who reveres the name of ABRAHAM LINCOLN—to you, one and all, we come with this our last and most earnest appeal for prompt and generous contributions for the National Lincoln Monument. Whether the structure shall be truly grand and worthy or not, still we believe that sage and seer, the good and true of every land and clime, will come to muse and pray beneath its shade. But we would that art and genius should pour their choicest treasures upon the work, whatever form it may assume, and that more than classic grace and beauty should breathe sublimest inspiration upon it, and make it glorious—for, while it guards the dust of LINCOLN, its grander mission shall be to tell our children and the world, from age to age, how priceless are the blessings, and how immortal the principles of HUMAN LIBERTY.

RICHARD J. OGLESBY,
ORLIN H. MINER,
JOHN T. STUART,
JESSE K. DUBOIS,
O. M. HATCH,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
JACOB BUNN,
SHARON TYNDALE,
NEWTON BATEMAN,
S. H. TREAT,
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